

Nebraska Performance Accountability System

Description of NePAS

Version 1.0.1a – December 5, 2012



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[NePAS]

In Section I:

For each district NePAS includes four charts:

1. A chart for grades 3-5 by district
2. A chart for grades 6-8 by district
3. A chart for grades 9-12 by district
4. A chart for grades 3-12 by district

Each chart will include the district's scores in NeSA- Reading, Math, Science, and Writing and a ranking of comparison to other school districts in the state. The grade-level configurations listed above will be used regardless of the local school building configurations.

In Section II:

A school chart and district chart for each grade in which NeSA tests are given, grades 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 11, will be included. The grade-level charts will include the same information as the four district charts in Section I with one exception: grade-level charts will not include rankings.

Data Definitions/Examples

For each subject area, the following data are included in the charts:

Based on Scale Scores

Status scores- Status is calculated by determining the average of all the students' scale scores. For example in reading for grades 3-5, all the students' scale scores for reading will be added together and divided by the number of students.

Improvement Scores- Improvement is calculated as the average scale score for all students in a group (i.e. third grade) one year compared to average scale score of the students in the same group (i.e. third grade) the next year. For example, all scores for students in grade 3 are averaged. The second year the scores are averaged for all students in grades 3. The difference in the two averages is the improvement. The two groups contain different individuals.

Growth Scores- Growth is a calculation in which the scale scores of the same individual students are matched—and the differences found. For example, student A takes the reading test in grade 3. He earns a 135 scale score. In grade 4 the same student takes the 4th grade reading test and earns a 140 scale score. His scale score from grade 3 is subtracted from the scale score for grade 4; the difference of 5 points is the growth. The differences in scale scores are averaged for all students in the group. For growth to be included for a student, the student must be in the same school district both years of the NeSA testing.

Based on Percentages

Participation- Participation is calculated as percentage of enrolled students who take the NeSA assessment in grades tested. The target rate has been set at 95%.

Graduation Rate- Graduation rate is calculated by following the students enrolled in grade 9 and calculating the percentage who have graduated after four and six years. The method to be used is the Cohort Four-Year Graduation Rate as defined by the US Department of Education. As data become available in the future, the Extended Cohort 6th Year Graduation Rate will be calculated as a two-year extension using the same method. Unlike AYP, the Cohort Graduation Rates do not lag.

Data or districts not included- Why will there be scores or school districts not shown on the NePAS charts?

Some examples

- No schools or districts will be included if the number of students in the group is below ten.
- Growth scores are only available when a NeSA test is given two years in a row. Therefore, no growth data are available for
 - writing (given at grades 4, 8, and 11)
 - science (given at grades 5, 8, and 11)
 - reading and math at the secondary level (given only at grade 11 in the high school)
 - reading and math at third grade (tests given at third grade for the first time in a student's schooling—no second grade scores are available to measure growth)
- Improvement in science and writing will not be available until the 2013 year.

Tied Scores- Scores that are tied within an indicator will be displayed with the same rank. For example, if fifty school districts have a 99% graduation rate, each of the school districts will receive a rank of #1 and the district with the next lower percentage will be ranked as #51.

Important to note is the volatility of results for small groups of students. For example, with a group of 30 students, a few students can cause large changes in the percentage for graduation rate.

The complete Nebraska Performance Accountability System [NePAS] document as approved by the Nebraska State board of Education on August 9, 2012 is available at http://www.education.ne.gov/Assessment/pdfs/Nebraska_Performance_Accountability_System_Aug_2012.pdf